General Rules and Guidelines

GENERAL

THERE WILL BE NO PARKING INSIDE THE FAIRGROUNDS STARTING THE EVENING OF AUGUST 8TH THROUGH THE MORNING OF AUGUST 16TH. VEHICLES MUST BE OFF THE FAIRGROUNDS BY 9PM. ALL OTHER RULES AND GUIDELINES ARE EFFECTIVE SATURDAY AUGUST 8TH, 2026 AT 6PM.

Only entries from the five counties of Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, and Leelanau will be accepted.

Animal registrations need to be submitted by July 1, 2026.
Non-Animal registrations need to be submitted by July 1, 2026.
There will be NO late registrations accepted. Payment for all entries must be submitted at the time of registration. NO ENTRY FEES WILL BE REFUNDED.

Exhibitors will be charged an entry fee of $1.00 for every classes entered. Exhibit tickets will be issued upon arrival. Special rules are given in each division. Please review department, section, and/or class rules for additional entry guidelines.

Every article or animal upon the fairgrounds will be under the control of the Executive Committee, and every precaution will be taken for their safekeeping but the association will not be responsible for any damage or loss that may occur, and upon this condition entries are received. No unregistered house hold pets will be allowed to be marketed on the fairgrounds.

Dogs camping on the fairgrounds must be kept on a leash no greater than 6 feet in length, under the immediate control of a responsible person and shall not be allowed to disturb any fairgrounds visitors or animals. DOGS MUST BE KEPT IN CAMP AREA OR DESIGNATED DOG AREAS AND BE KEPT ON A LEASH. Service dogs are allowed. The handler of any dog shall immediately remove all droppings and deposit in trash receptacle on fairgrounds.

Minors under the influence of alcohol or illicit drugs will be reported to the Sheriff's Department and prohibited from returning to the fairgrounds. Additional sanctions may be imposed by the Northwest Michigan 4-H Livestock Council. Refer to Code of Conduct Policy in the 4-H section of this Premium Book.

Trailers, tents, RVs, and buses must acquire their parking spot from the Camp Host before parking.

General Rules and Guidelines

ALL CAMPER VEHICLES MUST BE PARKED IN NORTH CAMP PARKING LOT OR IN DESIGNATED SIDE LOTS. THERE IS NO PARKING IN PATRON PARKING LOT. Any vehicles NOT in designated areas will be towed at owner's expense.

The fairgrounds are private property operated by a private entity.

There will be no open carry of firearms or carrying of fixed blade knives permitted on grounds.

The fairgrounds are a drug free zone. There will be zero tolerance for the use of any illicit drug including recreational and medical marijuana. Any violator will be immediately removed from property.

Fighting will not be tolerated and can result in being removed from fairgrounds in addition to a one year ban.

NO BIKES ARE ALLOWED ON FAIRGROUNDS.
Kids wandering around after 11pm (curfew) will have consequences.

Violation #1: Escorted back to camp.
Violation #2: Parking lot clean up detail.
Violation #3: Parents and child will have a meeting with the Executive Fair and Executive Livestock Council Boards.

JUDGING
No animal or article deemed unworthy shall be awarded a premium. Where there is but one exhibitor in a class, the animal or article may be awarded any award the judge deems appropriate.

Exhibitors having questions regarding placing should check with the Division Superintendent as soon as the judging is completed.

No exhibitor, unless in the presence of the respective Superintendent, will discuss any placing with the respective judge.

APPEALS AND COMPLAINTS:
An exhibitor compelled to bring a complaint regarding conflict of interest of the judge, disqualification of an exhibit or exhibitor; exhibitor or superintendent's behavior, or eligibility of an exhibit shall make formal protest in writing to a Fair Board Executive Committee Member no later than 10 days following the end of fair. All protests shall be referred to a special committee which shall review the protest with interested parties and give parties an opportunity to submit evidence.

General Rules and Guidelines

Protest reports shall be made to the fair board for final decision on the protest 14 days following date protest issuance. The party against whom the protest was filed shall have the right to read the statement of protest. Exhibitor may file appeal to the Department of Agriculture within 45 days of filing the initial complaint if the exhibitor is not satisfied with the association's action.

The Department of Agriculture shall have 60 days after receipt of any appropriately filed appeal to investigate the complaint, and shall issue a finding of fact and notice of department action and any recommended actions for the association.

Ribbons and rosettes will be awarded for all places as listed for each class, unless otherwise specified.

EXHIBITS: NON-ANIMAL
Non-livestock exhibits will be received Saturday, August 8, 2026 between 10am to 2pm. Evelyn Heim Building - 10am to 2pm. Tanner Building - 12pm to 6pm. Please check department rules for exceptions and other instructions.

In no case shall any article be brought upon the grounds and placed upon exhibition except by and at the expense of their authorized agent.

EXHIBITS: ANIMAL
Please refer to individual departments and sections for additional rules and guidelines.

Exhibitors aged 5-7 years old are required to be accompanied by a parent or responsible adult in all show rings in order to participate in the class.

RFID tags are required for all Beef projects & Swine projects & (4-H identification tags are required for all market projects.) Scrapies tags are required for sheep and goats.

Animals will be received Saturday August 8th, 2026, 6:00am to 3:00pm (please refer to your species specific time and will remain on the grounds until Sunday, August 16, 2026 at 6:00am (poultry department refer to department rules). Animals will not be permitted to leave early without appropriate arrangements. Exhibitors will forfeit the premium awarded if animals are removed before times slated. Exercise, feeding, and cleaning times for animals shall be before 9:00am and between 4:00pm and 6:00pm. All barns will be closed by 10:00pm. All barns and animal pens must be ready for public viewing by 9:00am daily.

An accredited veterinarian shall be on-call during the fair. Any individual services and/or disbursement of medication provided by the veterinarian shall be the responsibility of the individual.

General Rules and Guidelines

Sawdust bedding will be furnished for all animals, with exception of fiber animals or waiver by veterinarian. Exhibitors are required to furnish all feed and supplies.

Stalls and pens will be provided for animals and assigned in the order of application. All beef and dairy animals will be secured by a neck tie, and secured by a nylon rope or chain to a secured pipe.

Hay nets/ hay bags will be allowed at the discretion of the barn superintendent. If it poses as a threat to the safety and wellbeing of the animal, the hay net/bag will be removed and returned to the owner. This applies to goats and horses.

Animals occupying stalls and pens must be appropriately entered in the judge's book of the section and shown in competition.

Due to Bio Security, there will be no animals allowed off the trailer until they are inspected by the Superintendent.

Any prescriptions written pertaining to care of, special treatment or use of equipment to feed or supply water to any animal on the fair grounds during the week of fair will be written on an individual basis. No group/family/farm prescriptions will be accepted, i.e. each horse, steer, chicken, etc will have its own individual prescription for care.

Copies of registrations, statement as to breeder, feeding and management of stock will be required from all exhibitors.

All exhibitors must be neat and cleanly dressed and must put the stalls, pens, and floors in a neat and tidy condition by 9:00am daily. Tack will be kept out of walkways. Infractions of these rules or other barn rules directed by the Superintendent in charge may result in dismissal of the exhibitor and their animal from the fairgrounds.

All Animals entered for exhibition must be placed in the department prior to 3:00pm on Saturday, and if not so placed, the owners will forfeit all rights to exhibit or compete for premiums unless relieved from such results or forfeiture by order of the Superintendent of the department in which they are entered.

4-H market animals to be sold in the auction must be weighed on assigned scales only. Market livestock exhibitors are prohibited from entering NWMI Fair if the exhibitor has entered any 4-H market animal at any other fair in this calendar year.

Any animal suspected of being on tranquilizers or other drugs may be subject to testing at the direction of three or more members of the NWMI Livestock Council and NWMI Fair Board.

General Rules and Guidelines

The NWMI Fair may perform livestock testing by an "at random" or "for cause" selection process by following these steps:

1. The initial complaints in writing must be received by the fair board detailing complainant's reason for requesting testing.

2. A written reply from the exhibit owner regarding their response to the complaint must also be received by the fair board.

3. The fair board will review the case and may, at their discretion, request a licensed veterinarian to collect a sample of urine, blood, tissue or other specimen for testing. If the fair board requests a sample be collected, it will be done within 12 hours of the complaint being received by the fair board.

The Northwestern Michigan Fair reserves the right to disqualify any animals, either alive or slaughtered, wherein the exhibitor/owner of the animal entered into competition refuses to allow the animal to be tested, or the drug test is positive for substances not approved by the Food and Drug Administration, the United States Department of Agriculture or the Michigan Department of Agriculture. This includes, but is not limited to diuretics, steroids, repartitioning agents, tranquilizers, and analgesics. Exhibitors will notify the fair veterinarian before administering any medications to any animal brought in for competition. The exhibitor will forfeit auction privileges, premiums, and awards. Other animals will not be moved up in placing.

Michigan Department of Agriculture 2026 Health Requirements for Livestock Exhibited In Michigan

All livestock exhibitors must be in compliance with the animal health requirements as defined by the Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development.

Exhibitors may access requirements at:

https://www.legislature.mi.gov/Laws/MCL?objectName=MCL-ACT-466-OF-1988

TANNER BUILDING

AGRICULTURE, HORTICULTURE, and FLORICULTURE

Superintendent – Duke Elsner
Assistant Superintendent - Melinda Launter

During Fair week, the Tanner Building will be open to the public Monday through Saturday 9 am to 9 pm.

DEPARTMENT 46 -AGRICULTURE & HORTICULTURE

DEPARTMENT RULES:

• Exhibitors must be 13 years of age or older, as of January 1 of the current year.
• Entry stickers for your Agriculture, Horticulture, and Floriculture exhibits will be available in the Tanner Building.
• Entries will be accepted Saturday, August 8, 2026, noon to 6 pm and Sunday, August 9, 10 am to 6 pm. Exhibits must be in place by 6 pm on Sunday.
• Exhibits may be removed Saturday, August 15, noon to 9 pm, or on Sunday, August 16, 9 am to noon.
• All entries must have been grown in Michigan by the exhibitor.
• All seeds and grains must have been produced and harvested within the previous 12 months (since mid-August of 2025).
• All exhibits must have fair-issued exhibit tickets. The department, section, class and exhibitor numbers should be clearly visible; the exhibitor's name should be hidden from view by folding the ticket.
• Exhibitors must adhere to the directions given under each section and/or class.
• Entries bearing incorrect section or class numbers may be reassigned to an appropriate section and class by the superintendents, if possible; if not possible, the entry will not be judged.
• Exhibitors may make only one entry per class.
• Judging will take place on Sunday, August 9 or Monday August 10. Judging criteria varies by department, section and/or class.
• PREMIUM: Exhibitors will receive ribbons for their appropriate placing of 1st through 3rd places, unless otherwise specified. 1st place recipient will receive a premium of $3.00, unless otherwise specified.
• Official fair ribbons will not be available until Friday. Premiums will be available for pick up in the Evelyn Heim Building on Sunday, August 16, 2026 from 8am-11am.

DEPARTMENT 46A -FIELD AND FORAGE CROPS

SECTION 1: SPECIAL EXHIBIT CLASSES

Exhibitors will receive ribbons for their appropriate placing of 1st through 6th places. 1st place recipient will receive a premium of $10.00.

1. Farm Market Exhibit -Best selected, best grown, and most carefully handled exhibit of farm market produce consisting of 15 distinctly different items.
2. Vegetable Basket- An exhibit grown by one exhibitor with at least 9 different vegetables.

SECTION 2: SMALL GRAIN CLASSES

Entries should be a full peck or gallon container of cleaned grain.

Judging criteria includes purity of variety, form, plumpness, color, adaptation, freedom from disease, weed seed or foreign material, and proper naming.

1.Barley
2.Buckwheat
3.Oats
4.Rye
5.Spelt
6.Wheat, red
7.Wheat, white

SECTION 3: SHEAF GRAIN CLASSES

Entries should be 3 inches in diameter below the heads and tightly tied.

Judging criteria includes purity of variety, form, freedom from pest injury, weeds or foreign material, and proper naming.

1.Sheaf of Barley
2.Sheaf of Buckwheat
3.Sheaf of Oats
4.Sheaf of Rye
5. Sheaf of Wheat
6. Other, identify

SECTION 4: BEAN AND SOYBEAN CLASSES

Entries should be a full quart container of cleaned seeds.

Judging criteria includes purity of variety, form, plumpness, color, adaptation, freedom from pest injury, weed seed or foreign material, and proper naming.

1.Soybeans
2.Navy beans
3.Kidney beans
4.Other, (identify)

SECTION 5: FORAGE BUNDLE CLASSES

Entries should be 4 inches in diameter at the center and securely tied.

Judging criteria includes purity of variety, form, freedom from pest injury, weeds or foreign material, and proper naming.

1.Alfalfa
2.Alfalfa (mature)
3.Alsike
4.Barley
5.Birds foot trefoil
6.Brome grass
7.Foxtail
8.Millet
9.Orchard grass
10.Quack grass
11.Red clover
12.Reeds canary grass
13.Soybeans
14.Sudan grass
15.Sweet clover hay

SECTION 6: FIELD CORN CLASSES

Shelled corn entries should be a full peck or gallon container of material. Judging criteria includes consistency, texture, moisture level, and proper naming.

1. Corn, shelled
2. Ear, longest
3. Corn stalk, tallest
4. Silage corn stalk, tallest

SECTION 7: FERMENTED FEED CLASSES

Entries should be a full peck or gallon container of material. Judging criteria includes consistency, texture, moisture level, and proper naming.

1. Corn silage
2. Soybean silage
3. Haylage

SECTION 8: BALED CROPS

Entries should be a small bale. Judging criteria includes consistency, absence of weeds or foreign material, moisture level, tightness of bale, and proper naming.

1. Alfalfa, 1st cutting
2. Alfalfa, 2nd or later cutting
3. Alfalfa/grass mix, 1st cutting
4. Alfalfa/grass mix, 2nd or later cutting
5. Straw bales

DEPARTMENT 47 - VEGETABLES & ROOT CROPS

Entries should be displayed on a paper plate, except when impractical or otherwise indicated. The number of individual vegetables per entry is noted in the section or class descriptions.

Judging criteria includes representation of variety, conformity, maturity, color, freedom from pest and disease injury, cleanliness and adherence to class description.

SECTION 1: CORN CLASSES

1. Sweet corn, longest ear
2. Popcorn, longest ear
3. Shelled popcorn, a pint or more
4. Ornamental corn, longest ear

SECTION 2: SUNFLOWER CLASSES

1. Sunflower head, largest diameter
2. Sunflower, stalk with head, tallest

SECTION 3: BEANS, PEAS & OTHER LEGUME CLASSES

Entries should consist of 12 pods.

1. Pole beans, green
2. Pole beans, yellow
3. Pole beans, purple
4. Bush beans, green
5. Bush beans, yellow
6. Bush beans, purple
7. Bush beans, lima
8. Shelling peas
9. Sugar pea pods
10. Snap peas
11. Peanuts

SECTION 4: FOLIAGE, STEM, & FLORAL CROP CLASSES

1. Broccoli
2. Brussel sprouts (6)
3. Cabbage, early
4. Cabbage, late
5. Cabbage, red
6. Cabbage, savoy
7. Cabbage, Chinese
8. Cauliflower
9. Kale
10. Leeks (3)
11. Lettuce, leaf
12. Lettuce, head
13. Lettuce, red
14. Endive
15. Spinach
16. Swiss chard
17. Mustard greens
18. Rhubarb (6)
19. Asparagus (6)
20. Celery
21. Artichokes
22. Kohlrabi
23. Okra
24. Other, identify

SECTION 5: VINE CROP CLASSES

1. Cucumber, slicing (3)
2. Cucumber, dill (3)
3. Cucumber, pickling (3)
4. Cucumber, other (identify)
5. Cucumber, longest
6. Zucchini for slicing
7. Zucchini, globe
8. Zucchini, longest
9. Zucchini, heaviest
10. Squash, yellow straight neck
11. Squash, yellow crooked neck
12. Squash, patty pan
13. Squash, spaghetti
14. Squash, buttercup
15. Squash, butternut
16. Squash, acorn
17. Squash, Hubbard
18. Squash, other (provide variety name)
19. Gourds
20. Pumpkin, heaviest
21. Pumpkin, munchkin
22. Watermelon
23. Melon, other

SECTION 6: PEPPER, TOMATO & RELATED CLASSES

1. Peppers, sweet bell (3)
2. Peppers, sweet, non-bell (3)
3. Peppers, hot (3)
4. Peppers, ornamental
5. Peppers, container-grown plant
6. Tomatoes, cherry/grape/pear (12)
7. Tomatoes, paste or roma (5)
8. Tomatoes, beefsteak/slicers, ripe (5)
9. Tomatoes, green (5)
10. Tomatoes, heirloom
11. Tomatoes, container-grown plant
12. Tomatillo (6)
13. Eggplants

SECTION 7: POTATO CLASSES

1. Russet (7)
2. Red skinned (7)
3. Yellow/golden skinned (7)
4. Purple skinned (7)
5. Purple or blue fleshed (7)
6. Fingerling (7)
7. Oddest shaped
8. Heaviest
9. Sweet potatoes (3)

SECTION 8: ONION & GARLIC CLASSES

1. Onions, white (3)
2. Onions, yellow (3)
3. Onions, green (6)
4. Onions, red (3)
5. Onions, Spanish sweet
6. Onions, multiplier (12)
7. Garlic

SECTION 9: OTHER ROOT CROP CLASSES

1. Carrots, table (3)
2. Carrots, stock (3)
3. Beets, early (3)
4. Beets, late (3)
5. Sugar beets
6. Radishes (5)
7. Turnips, white
8. Turnips, yellow
9. Rutabaga, white
10. Rutabaga, yellow
11. Horseradish
12. Parsnips

SECTION 10: HERBS CLASSES

Entries should be in water, using a glass or plastic container.

1. Basil
2. Catmint
3. Catnip
4. Lavender
5. Lemon balm
6. Lemon mint
7. Marjoram
8. Oregano
9. Peppermint
10. Rosemary
11. Sage
12. Savory
13. Spearmint
14. Thyme
15. Anise
16. Caraway
17. Chives
18. Citron
19. Coriander
20. Cumin
21. Dill
22. Fennel
23. Hops
24. Licorice
25. Parsley
26. Salsify
27. Sorrel
28. Tansy
29. Tarragon
30. Wormwood
31. Other (identify)

DEPARTMENT 48 - FRUITS & NUTS

Entries should be displayed on a paper plate, except when impractical or otherwise indicated. The number of individual vegetables per entry is noted in the section or class descriptions. Judging criteria includes representation of variety, conformity, size, maturity, color, freedom from pest and disease injury, cleanliness and adherence to class description.

SECTION 1: TREE FRUIT CLASSES

1. Apples, early (5)
2. Apples, late (5)
3. Apple, largest
4. Pears, standard (5)
5. Pears, Asian (5)
6. Plums (5)
7. Peaches (5)
8. Apricots (5)
9. Cherries, sweet (12)
10. Cherries, tart (12)

SECTION 2: BERRY CLASSES

Entries should be pint containers.

1. Raspberries, red
2. Raspberries, black
3. Raspberries, other
4. Blackberries
5. Blueberries
6. Strawberries
7. Berries, other (identify)
8. Container-grown strawberry plant

SECTION 3: NUT CLASSES

1. Walnuts, black (5)
2. Walnuts, English (5)
3. Chestnuts (5)
4. Hazelnuts or Filberts (5)

DEPARTMENT 49 - OTHER AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

SECTION 1: MAPLE SYRUP CLASSES

Quality, quantity, appearance, and condition for market are considered in judging. Displays must be new each year.

1. 9 Ounce Jar
2. Pint
3. Creamed
4. Maple Sugar
5. Maple Candies

SECTION 2: APIARY CLASSES

Quality, quantity, appearance, and condition for market are considered in judging. Displays must be new each year.

1. Section of comb
2. Comb honey
3. Extracted pint

SECTION 3: EGGS

1. Chicken, white (6)
2. Chicken, brown (6)
3. Other, identify (6)

TANNER BUILDING

DEPARTMENT 50 -FLORICULTURE

DEPARTMENT RULES:

Exhibitors must be 13 years of age or older, as of January 1 of the current year. Pick up your entry stickers at the Tanner building. Entries will be accepted Sunday, August 9, 2026, 10 am to 6 pm. Exhibits must be in place by 6 pm on Sunday.

Exhibits may be removed Saturday, August 15, noon to 9 pm, or on Sunday, August 16, 9 am to noon.

All live plant material must have been grown in Michigan by the exhibitor, with exceptions noted in the section and class descriptions.

All exhibits must have fair-issued exhibit tickets. The department, section, class and exhibitor numbers should be clearly visible; the exhibitor's name should be hidden from view by folding the ticket.

• Exhibitors may make only one entry per class.

• Exhibitors must adhere to the directions given under each section and/or class.

• Cut flower and rose entries must be in a clear glass or plastic container with no labels, with the exception of arrangements which can be in any appropriate watertight container.

• Container grown plant must have been in the current container for a minimum of three months.

• No entries may exceed 4 feet in height or width.

• No polishes may be used.

• Entries bearing incorrect section or class numbers may be reassigned to an appropriate section and class by the superintendents, if possible; if not possible, the entry will not be judged.

Judging will take place on Sunday, August 9, after 6 pm. Judging criteria varies by department, section and/or class.

• PREMIUM: Exhibitors will receive ribbons for their appropriate placing of 1st through 3rd places, unless otherwise specified. 1st place recipient will receive a premium of $3.00, unless otherwise specified.

• Official fair ribbons will not be available until Friday, August 14.

SECTION 1: SUCCULENTS CLASSES

1. Agave
2. Aloe
3. Crassula
4. Euphorbia
5. Hawthoria
6. Kalanchoe
7. Sedums
8. Stapelia
9. Other (identify)

SECTION 2: FOLIAGE & BLOOMING PLANTS CLASSES

1. African violet
2. Begonia, flowering
3. Bromelaid
4. Caladium
5. Coleus
6. Diffenbachia
7. Dracaenas
8. Ferns
9. Ficus
10. Fuschia
11. Geranium
12. Norfolk pine
13. Orchid
14. Herb planter, single variety
15. Herb planter, mixed (three or more varieties)

TANNER BUILDING

SECTION 3: CUT FLOWER ARRANGEMENT CLASSES

Arrangements must be arranged by the exhibitor. Flowers used in this section need not be grown by the exhibitor. Entries will be judged on design, color, conformity, originality, condition and mechanics. PREMIUMS: Exhibitors will receive ribbons for their appropriate placing of 1st through 3rd places, 1st place recipient will receive a premium of $5.00.

1.Winter Wonderland - all white arrangements
2.Autumn On My Mind - use of autumn colors
3.Patriotic - red, white & blue arrangments
4.Coffee Break - arrangement in a coffee cup
5.School Colors - provide printed material showing school colors
6.Country Kitchen - kitchen utensils as container
7.Go Green - all green arrangment
8. Let's Party - arrangement with a holiday theme
9. Little Ones - miniature arrangement under 4" tall
10. Tisket-a-Tasket - arrangement in a basket
11. Something Old - arrangement of dried flowers
12. Wild About Flowers - arrangement using wild flowers

SECTION 4: CUT ANNUALS CLASSES

Display only one stem with foliage for each entry. Use only clear glass or plastic containers with no labels. PREMIUM: Exhibitors will receive ribbons for their appropriate placing of 1st through 3rd places.

1.Ageratum
2.Cleome
3.Celosia
4.Coleus
5.Everlasting
6.Marigold
7.Salvia
8.Sunflower
9.Zinnia
10.Other (please name)

SECTION 6: CUT PERENNIALS CLASSES

Display only one stem with foliage for each entry. PREMIUMS: Exhibitors will receive ribbons for their appropriate placing of 1st through 3rd places

1.Aster
2.Astilbe
3.Chrysanthemum
4.Coneflower
5.Coral Bells
6.Dahlia
7.Daisy
8.Daylily
9.Foxglove
10.Gladiolus
11.Helianthus & Heliopsis
12.Hibiscus
13.Hosta
14.Hydrangea
15.Lily, Asiatic
16.Lily, Oriental
17.Lobelia
18. Monarda
19. Penstemon
20. Phlow
21. Rudbeckia
22. Tansy
23.Veronica
24.Viola
25.Yarrow
26.Other (please name)

SECTION 7: ROSE CLASSES

PREMIUMS: Exhibitors will receive ribbons for their appropriate placing of 1st to 3rd places.

1.Hybrid Tea Roses - one stem with one bloom
2.Floribunda - spray with two or more blooms
3.Grandiflora - spray with two or more blooms
4.Climbers or ramblers
5.Miniatures - one stem with one bloom
6.Miniatures - spray with two or more blooms
7.Species, shrubs, others (identify)

SECTION 8: SWEEPSTAKES AWARD CLASS

Sweepstakes Awards may be given for the outstanding plant or cut flower, the outstanding arrangement, and outstanding rose exhibit, at the discretion of the judges.

DEPARTMENT 51 - YOUTH FLORICULTURE

DEPARTMENT RULES:

• Exhibitors must be 5 to 12 years of age, as of January 1 of the current year.
• Entry stickers for Youth Floriculture exhibits will be in the Tanner Building
• Entries will be accepted Saturday, August 8, 2026, noon to 6 pm, and Sunday, August 9, 10 am to 6 pm. Exhibits must be in place by 6 pm on Sunday.
• Exhibits may be removed Saturday, August 15, noon to 9 pm, or on Sunday, August 16, 9 am to noon. Premiums will be available in the Evelyn Heim building Sunday, August 10 from 8am-11am.
• All live plant material must have been grown in Michigan by the exhibitor, with exceptions noted in the section and class descriptions.
• All exhibits must have fair-issued exhibit tickets. The department, section, class and exhibitor numbers should be clearly visible; the exhibitor's name should be hidden from view by folding the ticket.
• Exhibitors may make only one entry per class.
• Exhibitors must adhere to the directions given under each section and/or class.
• Cut flower entries must be in a clear glass or plastic container with no labels, with the exception of arrangements which can be in any appropriate watertight container.
• Container grown plant must have been in the current container for a minimum of three months.
• No entries may exceed 4 feet in height or width.
• No polishes may be used.
• Entries bearing incorrect section or class numbers may be reassigned to an appropriate section and class by the superintendents, if possible; if not possible, the entry will not be judged.
• Judging will take place on Sunday, August 9. Judging criteria varies by department, section and/or class.
• PREMIUM: Exhibitors will receive ribbons for their appropriate placing of 1st through 3rd places, unless otherwise specified. 1st place recipient will receive a premium of $3.00, unless otherwise specified.
• Official fair ribbons will not be available until Friday, August 8.

SECTION 1: FLORAL CLASS

• Single specimen, in vase.

1. Floral

SECTION 2: ARRANGEMENTS CLASSES

1. Mixed flowers
2. Dried flowers
3. Wild flowers

SECTION 3: HOUSEPLANTS CLASS

1. Houseplants

TANNER BUILDING

DEPARTMENT 52 - YOUTH AGRICULTURE & HORTICULTURE
DEPARTMENT RULES:

• Exhibitors must be 5 to 12 years of age, as of January 1 of the current year.
• Entry stickers for Youth Agriculture and Horticulture exhibits will be available in the Tanner Building
• Entries will be accepted Saturday, August 8, 2026, noon to 6 pm, and Sunday, August 9, 10 am to 6 pm. Exhibits must be in place by 6 pm on Sunday.
• Exhibits may be removed Saturday, August 15, noon to 9 pm, or on Sunday, August 16, 9 am to noon. Premiums will be available in the Evelyn Heim building on Sunday, August 16, 2026 rom 8am-11am.
• All live plant material must have been grown in Michigan by the exhibitor, with exceptions noted in the section and class descriptions.
• All exhibits must have fair-issued exhibit tickets. The department, section, class and exhibitor numbers should be clearly visible; the exhibitor's name should be hidden from view by folding the ticket.
• Exhibitors may make only one entry per class.
• Exhibitors must adhere to the directions given under each section and/or class.
• Entries bearing incorrect section or class numbers may be reassigned to an appropriate section and class by the superintendents, if possible; if not possible, the entry will not be judged.
• Judging will take place on Sunday, August 9. Judging criteria varies by department, section and/or class.
• PREMIUM: Exhibitors will receive ribbons for their appropriate placing of 1st through 3rd places.
• Official fair ribbons will not be available until Friday, August 14 .

SECTION 1: FIELD CROP CLASSES

• Entries may be grown by someone other than the exhibitor.
• Sheaves or bundles should be 3 inches in diameter below the heads and tightly tied.
• Judging criteria includes purity of variety, form, freedom from pest injury, weeds or foreign material, and proper naming.

1. Sheaf of barley
2. Sheaf of buckwheat
3. Sheaf of oats
4. Sheaf of rye
5. Sheaf of wheat
6. Forage bundle of alfalfa
7. Forage bundle of birds foot trefoil
8. Forage bundle of brome grass
9. Forage bundle of foxtail
10. Forage bundle of orchard grass
11. Forage bundle of red clover

SECTION 2: FRUIT & VEGETABLE CLASSES

1. Sweet corn (3 ears)
2. Sunflower head
3. Beans, any type (6 pods)
4. Peas, any type (6 pods)
5. Broccoli
6. Brussel sprouts (6)
7. Cabbage, any type
8. Cauliflower
9. Lettuce, any type
10. Swiss chard
11. Cucumbers, any type (3)
12. Squash, zucchini for eating
13. Squash, zucchini, largest
14. Squash, any other type
15. Pumpkin, any type
16. Melons, any type
17. Peppers, any type
18. Tomatoes, cherry or grape (3)
19. Tomatoes, any other type (3)
20. Potatoes, any type (3)
21. Onions, any type
22. Garlic
23. Carrots, any type
24. Beets, any type (3)
25. Radishes (3)
26. Herbs, any type

NWMI FAIR REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Paper registrations are no longer accepted.

Please follow the link on our website or scan the QR code to complete registrtion.